



**May 8, 2017**

**To:** Members of the Board of Directors

**From:** Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

**Subject:** 2017 Chief Executive Officer's Initiatives and Action Plan – First Quarter Progress Report

On February 13, 2017, the Board of Directors (Board) approved the 2017 Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) Initiatives and Action Plan (Action Plan), which support the 2017 Board Strategic Initiatives (Attachment A). An overview of the CEO Initiatives is provided as Attachment B and the Action Plan is provided as Attachment C. The Action Plan consists of ten initiatives, implemented through 59 projects/programs, and monitored through 89 milestones. This report provides a summary of the first quarter (Q1) milestones from January 1, 2017 until March 31, 2017.

#### Q1 Status

In Q1, 13 milestones were scheduled for completion. As of the end of Q1, ten of 13 milestones have been completed. The Q1 highlights include the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) approval of the OC Streetcar Project to enter the engineering phase, the launch of the new 53Xpress limited-stop bus service, the full implementation of the employee pension reform plan, and the launch of the third Leadership Development Academy (LDA). The three milestones not completed in Q1 are summarized in Attachment C. Reasons are related to dependency on coordination with outside agencies or internal schedule adjustments.

Listed below are some of the Q1, 2017 CEO Action Plan accomplishments.

- Interstate 405 (I-405) Improvement Project Update: In November 2016, the Board awarded a design-build contract to a joint venture team, OC 405 Partners, for the I-405 Improvement Project (Project). In January 2017, the design build contract was executed by the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) CEO and the Notice to Proceed No. 1 for design was issued. In addition, staff is progressing right-of-way acquisition activities, and working with officials from the United States Department of Transportation to complete the necessary Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan application requirements for the Project.

- OC Streetcar: In January 2017, the FTA issued a letter approving the OC Streetcar Project to enter the engineering phase. The engineering phase is the final phase before OCTA seeks a full funding grant agreement with the FTA. The OC Streetcar will operate along a four-mile route in the cities of Garden Grove and Santa Ana.
- OC Bus 360: The OC Bus 360 Plan (Plan) is a comprehensive action plan to improve and provide efficient transit services. As part of the Plan, in February 2017, the new OC Bus limited-stop 53Xpress service was launched. The new service runs along Route 53, provides fewer stops, and improves travel time for long distance commuters.
- Mobile Ticketing and On-Demand Service: In February 2017, staff from OCTA's new Office of Innovation began working with Moovel Transit to utilize OCTA's existing mobile ticketing application to incorporate new technology that would help bus customers discover alternative ride options. This effort is part of OCTA's ongoing strategy to augment bus service with local ride services by utilizing new and existing technology.
- Employee Pension Reform Plan: In April 2013, the Board approved a phased pension reform plan implementing the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act. The plan requires all administrative employees hired prior to January 1, 2013, to pay 25 percent of the employee contribution for participation in the Orange County Employees Retirement System beginning January 1, 2014.

Commencing January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year thereafter until 2017, the contributions would increase until employees were paying 100 percent of their employee share by January 1, 2017. During the first pay period in January 2017, the plan was fully implemented with all administrative employees paying 100 percent of their employee contribution.

- Active Transportation Plan: In January 2017, a consultant contract was awarded to develop the first countywide Active Transportation Plan. The plan will consolidate local and regional bikeway master planning efforts, and will identify and prioritize potential pedestrian improvements countywide. The plan is expected to be published in late 2018.

- LDA: In January 2017, OCTA launched the third cohort of the LDA, OCTA's senior professional development program. The program is designed to grow and support the next generation of leaders by providing developmental opportunities in the critical leadership core competencies.

In addition, below are a few Q1, 2017 accomplishments not included in the CEO Action Plan.

- Angels Express Service: In March 2017, the Angels Express train service returned for the baseball season, offering fans a convenient and attractive travel option. In addition to promoting the train service, OCTA, in partnership with Metrolink and the Angels, will provide special incentives to maximize ridership. Funding for the Angels Express train service is provided by the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee.
- Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus: In February 2017, OCTA, in partnership with the Center for Transportation and the Environment, received more than \$13 million to purchase ten zero-emissions hydrogen fuel cell buses, and for the construction and maintenance of necessary infrastructure. Funding is made possible through the California Air Resources Board and in part by South Coast Air Quality Management District. The new buses are expected to be in service by late 2018.
- 91 Express Lanes Extension: In March 2017, after three years of construction, Riverside County Transportation Commission extended the 91 Express Lanes from Orange County to Interstate 15 in Riverside County. The roughly \$1.4 billion widening project added two new express lanes on the west and eastbound sides of the freeway, as well as one additional general purpose lane on both sides of State Route 91 (SR-91). The extension seamlessly connects Orange County express lane travelers to Riverside County's express lanes and enhances travel for general SR-91 users.

I am pleased with the progress that the agency has made this quarter and look forward to completing the balance of the 2017 CEO's Action Plan this coming year. Please contact me at (714) 560-5343 with any questions or suggestions.

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Attachments